

# MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION

July 16, 2020 – 9:30am to 12:15pm

Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

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## MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsy Akin  
Cory Turner  
Diane Brecht  
John Parmeter  
Lorrie Young

Maria Sorensen  
Richard Whitaker  
Russell Wood  
Teresa Daubitz

## MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Janee Harvey  
Shari O'Bannon

Timothy Perkins

## OTHER ATTENDEES:

Torie Keith  
Kelsey Thien  
Julie Maas  
Rachel Cecil  
Adrienne Seusy  
Bill Kallestad  
Jan Heikes  
Blaine Beatty

Julie Jetter  
Marissa Eyanson  
Karen Dowell  
Shane Walter  
Jason Vermeer  
Sandi Hurtado-Peters  
Flora Schmidt

## Welcome and Call to Order

John Parmeter called the meeting to order at 9:32am and led introductions. Quorum was established with ten members present. John asked meeting participants to limit questions and comments to the end of presentations and the public until public comment.

## Approval of Minutes

Richard Whitaker made a motion to approve the July 16, 2020 meeting minutes. Diane Brecht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## Mental Health and Disability Services Regional Policies and Procedures Amendments

John stated there were several Regions who are brining amendments to their policies and procedures and the Commission will vote to either recommend DHS approve their amendments or recommend that DHS does not approve amendments.

## County Social Services (CSS)

Karen Dowel presented a summary of the changes made to County Social Service's policies and procedures. Changes included the following: changed name of governing board to County Social Services Board; updated office locations and access point information; changed use of "cost share" to "copayment"; removed Kossuth, Winnebago, and Worth Regions from plan; added children's representatives for both CSS Board and Children's Advisory Committee; enhanced description of iSTART program; and reflected changed that CSS now fiscal agent and employer.

There was discussion about difficulty in filling some Children's Advisory Committee seats.

Russell Wood made a motion to recommend DHS accept County Social Service's amended policies and procedures. Lorrie Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Rolling Hills Community Services Region

Dawn Mentzer presented a summary of changes made to Rolling Hills Community Service's Region's policies and procedures. Rolling Hills amended management plan one year ago when the Woodbury County joined the region. Remaining changes included the following: adding language reflecting children's services; added three voting members and one non-voting member to CSS Board; added access points to include children's providers; increased definitions to include children's services; and added eligibility and diagnostic criteria for children's services.

There was discussion on clarifying the addition of access points. Dawn clarified that the Region completed resource mapping with all providers and added all mental health centers and children's providers. Discussion on the Region's budget being able to fund both adult and children's services to full capacity. Dawn reported that with the current budget, core services for both adults and children are funded at this time. Dawn does not anticipate the use of waiting lists at this time.

Russell Wood made a motion to recommend DHS accept Rolling Hills Community Services amended policies and procedures. Richard Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Sioux Rivers

Shane Walter presented a summary of the changes made to the Sioux River's policies and procedures. Incorporating language for children's services. Changes included the following: added Dickinson and O'Brien counties to Region; updated definitions; and working with neighboring Regions for access center.

There was discussion regarding waiting lists for services. Shane did not anticipate waiting lists for this fiscal year but unable to know how the following year will go.

Russell Wood made a motion to recommend DHS accept Sioux Rivers' amended policies and procedures. Lorrie Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Discussion on Cost Increase Letter**

John Parmeter presented a draft of the cost increase letter to the Commission. The Commission recommended expanding their fourth recommendation to reflect specification of CARES Act dollar allocation to Regions. Significant discussion regarding clarifying the use of CARES Act dollars in Regions. Recommendation was made to include the ACT rate identified in the state report. Recommendation was made to include "disability services" when "mental health" is used throughout the document.

Russell Wood made a motion to approve the Cost Increase letter with amendments made today. Teresa Daubitz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Public Comment**

None

#### **Annual Report Committees**

The Commission split into respective committees. Legislative priorities and County/Regional services committees met for thirty minutes.

**Planning for Future Meetings**

John led the Commission in discussing future agenda items. The following items were requested: update on Olmstead plan; HCBS Rules update; Regional spending on CARES Act dollars; workforce barriers and challenges; Regional dashboards; innovations in mental health; Medicaid/Medicare eligibility for services; evidence based practices in Family First Program; disability services discussion with Iowa Association for Community Providers; and building of Access Centers.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Victoria Keith.